

Val Bonetti

Acoustic Blues&Jazz Guitarist

Val is a guitar player based in Milan, very active in teaching and performing.

After studying classical guitar as a kid, he turned into blues fingerstyle and jazz and graduated in jazz guitar at the Civica Scuola di Jazz di Milano in 2005.

Val's guitar style is mainly influenced by a mixture of the sounds of the early masters of Country Blues and Ragtime as well as modern Jazz music, the technique of some of the great masters of fingerstyle acoustic guitar (especially John Renbourn, Duck Baker, Woody Mann) as well as Mediterranean and WestAfrican music. As GuitarInternational.com says "... a mix of fingerstyle, blues and jazz, all coming together in such an authentic, yet personal, fashion..."

His original compositions "A frog in the kitchen" and "3.25" gained the "New sound of acoustic guitar" prize in 2009 at The International Guitar Meeting in Sarzana (SP, Italy). In the same year Val received a prize for the best arrangement with his version of Jaco Pastorius' tune: "Three views of a secret".

All these tunes were included in the debut album "Wait" (2010) which received excellent reviews In Italy Uk, Germany and Usa. "A quiet opus of mind-boggling dexterity.." (Acoustic Magazine, UK)

2011 Val had to stop for an accident occurred to his left hand, it took one year for complete recovery.

2012 as a teacher Val starts a collaboration with Centro Studi Fingerstyle that offers courses and masters in fingerstyle guitar.

2014 is out "Tales". The second album recorded in duo with Cristiano Da Ros on double bass. La Nazione (IT)"...Lightnin' and elegant duets will engage the listeners with an unpredictable performance and repertoire..."

2016 Val and Cristiano made a short tour in Great Britain and Ireland showcasing their album.

Through years Val has been performing in clubs, house concerts, events, and festivals all around Italy.

2017 is out "Pareto Sketches" a double Cd set of original music written by Duck Baker and performed on guitar by Duck, Michele Calgaro, Davide Mastrangelo, Luigi Maramotti, Massimo Gatti on mandolin and Val Bonetti.

His collaboration with Duck Baker keeps going on with concerts and workshops in Italy.

Val is always very active as a session man and involved in many projects.

He is a member of IIZenDelSwing, the acoustic band of Claudio Sanfilippo, very well known singer songwriter from Milan; has a duo with Aronne Dell'Oro an Italian folk singer of traditional Southern Italy music. He also has a duo with the harmonica blues player Beppe Semeraro, playing early jazz, blues and ragtime.

2019 Val recorded "Hidden Star" nine original tracks including three special guests: Marco Ricci on double bass, Cheikh Fall on kora, and Giulio Brouzet on harmonica. The album was released on sept 2020 by the Italian label DodiciLune (JAZZIT: "remarkable dynamics interplay and improvisation, an amazing record...")

Between October and December 2020 Val is in studio to record "A World of lullabies", arrangements (or "re-compositions") of traditional lullabies and nursery rhymes from 14 different countries, involving ten musicians as special guests

A 14 tracks limited-edition CD is produced thanks to a crowdfunding on Produzioni dal Basso, part of the incomes were devolved to Associazione Famiglie LGS to help kids suffering Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome.

2021 The book Ninne Nanne Tradizionali per Chitarra Fingerstyle (ed. Fingerpicking.net) is ready, including full transcriptions of nine lullabies, 90 pages of exercises and 68 videos, in 2022 the English version (Traditional Lullabies for Fingerstyle Guitar) is available.

November 2021 Val is on the front cover of Chitarra Acustica with a large featuring and interview about A World of Lullabies.

2022 "A World of Lullabies" is published by Felmay Records in a new packaging, with a selection of 11 tracks. Available in CD and on every digital store.

March 2022 again Val hits the cover of Axe Guitar Magazine with AWOL.

Val has established his own guitar school in Milan, active with lessons and workshops.

(www.goodthumb.com / www.valbonetti.com)